Seminar to help clarify food safety regulations

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MADISON – The Local Food Business Seminar series continues with Food Safety seminars scheduled around Wisconsin from Dec. 1 to 4. Don't be daunted by state and federal food safety regulations. Join meat and food safety experts at one of these seminars hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and a number of industry partners.

On the agenda:

- Nicole Lukens and Cindy Klug, meat safety officials from DATCP, will talk about licensing requirements and the process to get a license. In addition to meat safety, regional food safety officials will talk about requirements for many products including eggs, honey and syrups.
- Judy Sullivan of the Wisconsin Manufacturing Extension Partnership will talk about the federal Food Safety Modernization Act and the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI). She also will talk about developing a complete, documentable food safety management system that conforms to the most common GFSI standards.
- Mary Pat Carlson from Farm Market Kitchen in Algoma will provide information and updates about food safety regulations and licensing. She also will talk about requirements for nutritional information and current events in food safety, including grants, educational opportunities and resources.

The seminars will be in Waukesha on Dec. 1, Stevens Point on Dec. 2, Gays Mills on Dec. 3 and Madison on Dec. 4. You need only attend one seminar – choose the location most convenient for you. The four seminars will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Check-in begins at 8:45 a.m. at each location.

The cost of the seminar is \$15 for the first registration and \$10 for additional members of a business or organization. The price includes lunch. Active Something Special *from* Wisconsin TM members get a \$5 discount.

The Madison seminar will be available online as a free webinar.

See the exact locations of the seminar sites, read a complete agenda or register at http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/BLBW_Workshops.

To request a link for the webinar, or if you have other questions, contact Kietra Olson at (608) 224-5112 or Kietra.olson@wisconsin.gov.

The Local Food Business Seminar Series includes four more seminars scheduled through March. Each seminar will take place in Waukesha, Stevens Point, Gays Mills and Madison. The next in the series is the Marketing Seminar scheduled from Jan. 5 to 8.

The Buy Local, Buy Wisconsin program provides many resources for local farms and agribusinesses. Learn more at http://datcp.wi.gov/Business/Buy_Local_Buy_Wisconsin/.